

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 PA-03 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSR-01 /063 W

----- 011215

R 050932Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF

CJCS

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

SECSTATE WASHDC 2423

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: VOA COVERAGE OF EVACUATION OF BASSAC RIVER POSITIONS

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 7842

(B) USIA 14881

1. IN OUR JUDGMENT BOTH VERSIONS YOU CITE IN PARA'S
2 AND 3 OF REFTEL (B) OF THE BROADCAST ON THE SAANG
EVACUATION CONTAIN ERRORS THAT VOA MUST AVOID IN ITS
KHMER LANGUAGE SERVICE IN THESE CRITICAL DAYS OF THE
BATTLE FOR PHNOM PENH.

2. FIRST VERSION (PARA 2) CONTAINS ASSESSMENT SENTENCE
QTE, THE TOWN . . . IS SAID TO BE IMPORTANT IN THE SOUTH-
ERN DEFENSE OF THE CAPITAL UNQTE. IT SO HAPPENS THAT
THE TOWN IS OF NO RPT NO IMPORTANCE TO THE DEFENSE OF
THE CAPITAL, BEING AN EXPOSED POSITION DIFFICULT TO MAN.
HOWEVER, EVEN IF IT WERE IMPORTANT, IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY
SENSE FOR VOA TO POINT IT OUT TO KHMER LISTENERS.

3. SECOND VERSION (PARA 3) CONTAINS SCARE WORDS QTE,
COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE TIGHTENED THEIR RING AROUND PHNOM
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PENH UNQTE AND AGAIN MENTIONS SAANG'S QTE, IMPORTANCE

UNQTE.

4. POINT IS THAT VOA MUST KEEP CONSTANTLY IN MIND THAT IT IS BROADCASTING TO A PEOPLE THREATENED BY NATIONAL CATASTROPHE. VOA SHOULD PLAY UP GOOD NEWS, RECITE BAD NEWS IN A MATTER-OF-FACT WAY, AND AVOID ALL PORTENTOUS OR SCARY LANGUAGE.

5. AS INDICATED IN PHNOM PENH 7991, WE WILL SEND OUR FIRST SITUATIONER AT 1500 GOLF (0800 ZULU). THAT SHOULD BE IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR MORNING BROADCASTS. WE WILL UPDATE IF NECESSARY FOR EVENING BROADCASTS.
ENDERS

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NNN

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